

input means for selecting a portion of said received image to view;

image transform processor means for processing said digitised signals to produce an output signal corresponding to a perspective corrected image of said selected portion of said received image;

output image memory means for receiving said output signal from said image transform processor means; and

output means connected to said output image memory means for recording or displaying said perspective corrected image of said selected portion;

characterised in that said image transform processor means comprises transform parameter calculation means for calculating transform parameters for said selected portion of said image and processes said digitised signal based on said calculated transform parameters to generate said output signal.

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46. (New) A system according to claim ⁶²45, comprising a camera imaging system for receiving said optical image and for producing said signals corresponding to said received optical image for output to said image capture means.

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(New) A system according to claim ⁶³46, comprising wide angle lens means mounted on said camera imaging system for producing said optical image for optical conveyance to said camera imaging system.

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(New) A system according to claim ⁶⁴47, wherein said lens means is one or more fish-eye lenses.

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(New) A system according to claim ⁶²45, wherein said input means provides for input to said image transform processor means of one or more of: a direction of view; tilting of a viewing angle; rotation of a viewing angle; pan of said viewing angle; focus of said image and magnification of the selected portion of the image.

⁶¹50. (New) A system according to claim ⁶⁶49, wherein tilting of said viewing angle through at least 180 degrees is provided for.

⁶⁸51. (New) A system according to claim ⁶⁶49, wherein rotation of said viewing angle through 360 degrees is provided for.

⁶⁹52. (New) A system according to any one of claims ⁶⁶49, wherein pan of said viewing angle through at least 180 degrees is provided for.

⁷⁰53. (New) A system according to claim ⁶⁹52, wherein pan of said viewing angle through 360 degrees is provided for.

⁷¹54. (New) A system according to claim ⁶²45, wherein said input means is a user-operated manipulator switch means.

⁷²55. (New) A system according to any one of claims ⁶²45, wherein said input means is a signal from a computer input means.

⁷³56. (New) A system according to claim ⁶²45, wherein said image transform processing means is programmed to implement the following two equations:

$$x = \frac{R\{uA-vB+mR\sin\beta\sin\delta\}}{\sqrt{u^2+v^2+m^2R^2}}$$

$$y = \frac{R\{uC-vD+mR\sin\beta\sin\delta\}}{\sqrt{u^2+v^2+m^2R^2}}$$

where:

$$A = (\cos\phi\cos\delta - \sin\phi\sin\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$B = (\sin\phi\cos\delta + \cos\phi\sin\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$C = (\cos\phi\sin\delta + \sin\phi\cos\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$D = (\sin\phi\sin\delta + \cos\phi\cos\delta\cos\beta)$$

and where:

R = radius of the image circle

β = zenith angle

δ = Azimuth angle in image plane

ϕ = Object plane rotation angle

m = Magnification

u,v = object plane coordinates

x,y = image plane coordinates

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57. (New) A method for providing perspective corrected views of a selected portion of an optical image captured with a wide angle lens, the received optical image being distorted, the method comprising:

providing a digitised signal corresponding to said optical image;

selecting a portion of said optical image;

transforming said digitised signal to produce an output signal corresponding to a perspective corrected image of said selected portion of said received image; and

displaying or recording said perspective corrected image of said selected portion;

characterised in that said step of transforming said digitised signal comprises calculating transform parameters for said selected portion of said image, said calculated transform parameters being used to control said transformation of the digitised signal to generate said output signal.

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58. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁴57, comprising first receiving said optical image, producing signals corresponding to said received optical image and digitizing said signals.

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59. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁴57, comprising capturing said optical image with one or more fish-eye lenses.

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60. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein said step of selecting the portion of the image to view comprises selecting one or more of: a direction of view; tilting of a viewing angle; rotation of a viewing angle; pan of said viewing angle; focus of said image and magnification of the selected portion of the image.

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61. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁷60, wherein tilting of said viewing angle through at least 180 degrees is provided for.

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62. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁷60, wherein rotation of said viewing angle through 360 degrees is provided for.

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63. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁷60, wherein pan of said viewing angle through at least 180 degrees is provided for.

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64. (New) A method according to claim ⁸⁰63, wherein pan of said viewing angle through 360 degrees is provided for.

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65. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein selection of said portion of the image to view is achieved using a user-operated manipulator switch means.

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66. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein selection of said portion of the image to view is controlled by a signal from a computer input means.

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67. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein said image transformation implements the following two equations:

$$x = \frac{R\{uA-vB+mR\sin\beta\sin\delta\}}{\sqrt{u^2+v^2+m^2R^2}}$$

$$y = \frac{R\{uC-vD+mR\sin\beta\sin\delta\}}{\sqrt{u^2+v^2+m^2R^2}}$$

where:

$$A = (\cos\phi\cos\delta - \sin\phi\sin\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$B = (\sin\phi\cos\delta + \cos\phi\sin\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$C = (\cos\phi\sin\delta + \sin\phi\cos\delta\cos\beta)$$

$$D = (\sin\phi\sin\delta + \cos\phi\cos\delta\cos\beta)$$

and where:

R = radius of the image circle

β = zenith angle

δ = Azimuth angle in image plane

ϕ = Object plane rotation angle

m = Magnification

u,v = object plane coordinates

x, y = image plane coordinates

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68. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein a plurality of portions of said image are selected for viewing and are displayed either simultaneously or consecutively.

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69. (New) A method according to any one of claims ⁷⁴57, wherein the image is viewed interactively by repeating the steps of selecting, transforming and displaying said portion of the image.

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70. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁴57, wherein said step of transforming the image is based on lens characteristics of the wide angle lens.

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71. (New) A method according to claim ⁸⁷70, wherein the step of transformation is based on azimuth angle invariability and equidistant projection.

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72. (New) A method according to claim ⁷⁴57, wherein the step of transforming the image is performed at real time video rates.

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73. (New) A method for providing perspective corrected views of a selected portion of a spherical image comprising two images captured with a fisheye lens, the received spherical image being distorted, the method comprising:
 providing a digitised signal corresponding to said spherical image;
 selecting a portion of said spherical image;
 transforming said digitised signal to produce an output signal corresponding to a perspective corrected image of said selected portion of said spherical image; and
 displaying or recording said perspective corrected image of said selected portion;
 characterised in that said step of transforming said digitised signal comprises